

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A webbing retractor comprising:

a retracting shaft for retracting a webbing belt for restraining an occupant;

a lock mechanism which includes ~~an~~ metallic annular lock gear concentrically mounted with respect to an axis of rotation of said retracting shaft with ratchet teeth being formed at an annular outer peripheral face of the lock gear and a lock plate disposed to be able to be engaged with the ratchet teeth of the lock gear, and which is structured to be able to prevent rotation of the retracting shaft in a webbing pulling-out direction by the lock plate being engaged with the lock gear such that the lock gear remains concentric with respect to said axis of rotation during operation of the lock mechanism;

a force limiter mechanism which includes a torsion bar having one end portion coupled to the retracting shaft, and which is structured to be able to absorb a rotating force of the retracting shaft in the webbing pulling-out direction when the rotation of the retracting shaft in the webbing pulling-out direction is prevented by the lock mechanism; and

a pretensioner mechanism which includes a sleeve coupled to the other end portion of the torsion bar, and which is structured to be able to forcibly rotate the retracting shaft in a webbing retracting direction via the sleeve,

wherein the sleeve of the pretensioner mechanism is integrally and concentrically connected to at an axial center portion of the lock gear of the lock mechanism such that the sleeve and the lock gear form a single, one piece member.

2. (Original) The webbing retractor of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is formed in a cylindrical shape coaxial with the lock gear, and an inner peripheral face of the sleeve is knurled.

3. (Currently Amended) A webbing retractor comprising:

a retracting shaft for retracting a webbing belt for restraining an occupant;

a lock mechanism which includes ~~an~~ metallic annular lock gear concentrically mounted with respect to an axis of rotation of said retracting shaft with ratchet teeth being formed at an annular outer peripheral face of the lock gear and a lock plate disposed to be able to be engaged with the ratchet teeth of the lock gear, and which is structured to be able to

prevent rotation of the retracting shaft in a webbing pulling-out direction by the lock plate being engaged with the lock gear such that the lock gear remains concentric with respect to said axis of rotation during operation of the lock mechanism;

a force limiter mechanism which includes a torsion bar having one end portion coupled to the retracting shaft, and which is structured to be able to absorb a rotating force of the retracting shaft in the webbing pulling-out direction when the rotation of the retracting shaft in the webbing pulling-out direction is prevented by the lock mechanism; and

a pretensioner mechanism which includes a metallic sleeve coupled to the other end portion of the torsion bar, a piston which moves within a cylinder by receiving gas pressure, a rack, which is provided at the piston, with a plurality of teeth being formed at the rack along a moving direction of the piston, a pinion which is disposed coaxially with the retracting shaft and which engages with the teeth of the rack to rotate as the piston moves, and a clutch plate which transmits a rotating force of the pinion to the sleeve, and which is structured to be able to forcibly rotate the retracting shaft in a webbing retracting direction via the sleeve,

wherein the sleeve of the pretensioner mechanism is integrally and concentrically connected ~~to at an axial center portion of~~ the lock gear of the lock mechanism such that the sleeve and the lock gear form a single, metallic one piece member.

4. (Original) The webbing retractor of claim 3, further comprising a cam which is formed integrally with the pinion and which actuates the clutch plate based on rotation of the pinion.

5. (Currently Amended) A webbing retractor comprising:

a frame;

a retracting shaft rotatably mounted in the frame for retracting a webbing belt for restraining an occupant;

a lock mechanism which includes an annular lock gear concentrically mounted with respect to an axis of rotation of said retracting shaft with ratchet teeth being formed at the lock gear and a lock plate ~~disposed to be able to be engaged~~ pivotably mounted on the frame and movable into engagement with the ratchet teeth of the lock gear, and which is structured to be able to prevent rotation of the retracting shaft in a webbing pulling-out direction by the

lock plate being engaged with the lock gear such that the lock gear remains concentric with respect to said axis of rotation during operation of the lock mechanism;

a force limiter mechanism which includes a torsion bar having one end portion coupled to the retracting shaft, and which is structured to be able to absorb a rotating force of the retracting shaft in the webbing pulling-out direction when the rotation of the retracting shaft in the webbing pulling-out direction is prevented by the lock mechanism; and

a pretensioner mechanism which includes a metallic sleeve coupled to the other end portion of the torsion bar, and which is structured to be able to forcibly rotate the retracting shaft in a webbing retracting direction via the sleeve,

wherein the sleeve of the pretensioner mechanism is integrally connected at the lock gear of the lock mechanism such that the sleeve and the lock gear form a single, metallic one piece member.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A webbing retractor comprising:

a retracting shaft for retracting a webbing belt for restraining an occupant;

a lock mechanism which includes an annular lock gear concentrically mounted with respect to an axis of rotation of said retracting shaft with ratchet teeth being formed at an annular outer peripheral face of the lock gear and a lock plate disposed to be able to be engaged with the ratchet teeth of the lock gear, and which is structured to be able to prevent rotation of the retracting shaft in a webbing pulling-out direction by the lock plate being engaged with the lock gear;

a force limiter mechanism which includes a torsion bar having one end portion coupled to the retracting shaft, and which is structured to be able to absorb a rotating force of the retracting shaft in the webbing pulling-out direction when the rotation of the retracting shaft in the webbing pulling-out direction is prevented by the lock mechanism; and

a pretensioner mechanism which includes a sleeve coupled to the other end portion of the torsion bar, a piston which moves within a cylinder by receiving gas pressure, a rack, which is provided at the piston, with a plurality of teeth being formed at the rack along a moving direction of the piston, a pinion which is disposed coaxially with the retracting shaft and which engages with the teeth of the rack to rotate as the piston moves, and a clutch plate which transmits a rotating force of the pinion to the sleeve, and which is structured to be able to forcibly rotate the retracting shaft in a webbing retracting direction via the sleeve,

wherein the sleeve of the pretensioner mechanism is integrally and concentrically connected to the lock gear of the lock mechanism such that the sleeve and the lock gear form a single, one piece member, and one end portion side of the sleeve of the pretensioner mechanism is connected to the other end portion of the torsion bar, and an inner peripheral face of the other end portion side of the sleeve is knurled, and the knurled inner peripheral face of the other end portion side of the sleeve is directly engaged with the clutch plate during operation of the pretensioner mechanism such that the rotating force of the pinion is transmitted, via the clutch plate, to the other end portion side of the sleeve.

10. (New) The webbing retractor of claim 9, wherein the lock gear remains concentric with respect to said axis of rotation during operation of the lock mechanism.